

NOTES ON BUTTERFLIES OF THE SHAN STATES, BURMA.

BY

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I have recently been reading through the back numbers of the *Journal* from vol. x, 1895, and to my surprise I have not noticed any account or list of the butterflies of this very interesting part of Burma.

While I have not covered all of the Shan States during my fifteen years of collecting I think I may claim to have a fairly good representative collection of butterflies from this area.

The Shan States covers a large amount of the hilly country in Upper Burma. The highest elevation reaches about 6,000 feet above sea level. Both the Southern and Northern sections are reached either by rail or road. The railway terminates at Lashio in the North and Shwenyaung in the South. Beyond these railheads are fairly good second class roads up to the Chinese border. It is not advisable, however, to travel by car far beyond the railheads in the rainy season. In the dry season the roads are in good condition in so far as second class roads can be made good and one can motor through what I consider to be one of the most interesting countries in the world. The scenery is beautiful beyond description and the different tribes vary as does the scenery. The motorist passes through rolling downs, dense jungle and lovely pine woods with a lake dotted here and there in the course of one morning's drive.

In the *Identification of Indian Butterflies* the author, referring to Burma, says that 'in many ways the Thandaung ghat is one of the best collecting places in the Indian Empire; it is the meeting place of the Chinese and the Malayan elements and possesses a number of species or well defined races that do not appear to be found elsewhere.' This section referred to is on the same range of hills as the Shan States but geographically not in the Shan States.

I might go farther than the above-mentioned author and say that the whole of the Shan States is one of the best collecting grounds in the Indian Empire. I feel sure readers will agree when they notice the long list of butterflies to be found therein, many of which are very rare and not found elsewhere.

Maymyo, the writer's headquarters, while not in the Shan States proper is on the plateau at the beginning of the Northern section and is an excellent locality for many rare and interesting varieties. During my twelve years of residence here and eight at Kalaw in the Southern section, I have built up a good collection of butterflies from important places. In addition to Maymyo and Kalaw I have toured the States extensively and collected butterflies wherever I travelled.

Before giving the list of butterflies to be found in the Shan States I would mention I should be very glad to exchange with any collectors in India and Ceylon. I have many hundreds of duplicates and would be glad to get into touch with fellow collectors all over India especially Southern India and Ceylon.

The names given in the following list are taken from the 1st edition of the *Identification of Indian Butterflies* by Brigadier Evans, which I believe in some cases differ a little from the names given in the 2nd edition.

As I am not an expert there may be mistakes in the names especially in the Lycaenidae. This family together with the Hesperidae I find most difficult to name as there are so very many varieties.

PAPILIONIDÆ.

TROIDES

aeacus. Fairly common in all parts of the Shan States. Very fond of feeding on flowers of lantana.

helena cerberus. Common and as above. The variety *eumages* is very rare and I have only seen one male during the many years I have been collecting.

BYASA

aidoneus. Rare but if one knows the time of flight which is during September one can collect a few specimens in and around Maymyo. This year I caught four males and two females. The colour of the female given by Col. Evans is brown. Those caught by me are not in any way brown but a distinct slaty black.

zaleucus. Very rare in the Shan States. I have only seen two males during my 15 years of collecting, one in Kalaw in the South and the other at Maymyo in the North.

aristolochiae gonlopeltis. Very common all over the country.

phloxenus polyeuctes. Fairly plentiful during May and September. Evidently it is double brooded as they are not seen between the above two months.

✓ **crassipes.** Very rare indeed. I have only seen one from Kalaw in the South during my many years of collecting.

CHILASA

✓ **agestor agestor.** I generally get half a dozen of these each summer during April. Evidently feeds on the camphor tree as I have caught a number round this tree in my garden. It is a good mimic of *Danais tytia tytia* and can easily be taken for it.

✓ **slateri marginata.** I have not found this butterfly in the Shan States proper but it is found at the foot of the Thandaung ghat adjoining the Shan States.

clytia clytia. Common all over the country.

clytia onpape. Also fairly common especially in the North beyond Lashio and up to the Chinese border.

PAPILIO

memon agenor. ^{Ston.} Males of this variety are to be found eight months of the year. Females however of all three forms are scarce.

rhetenor. ^{W. C. W.} Rare. I have only one in my collection; a female caught on 11-5-35 at Maymyo.

protenor euprotenor. Very rare in the Shan States but common in other parts of Upper Burma.

bianor gladiator. Found at Kalaw in the South only this year. During my eight years' residence there I did not see a single specimen. In September of this year a friend caught several in his garden. It may be I had taken it for *paris* as it flies with it and looks very much like it on the wing.

polyctor ganesa. Fairly plentiful at Kalaw in the South but I have not found it in the North. This flies also with *paris paris* and is difficult to tell from it on the wing.

paris paris. Very common all over the country. I noticed the specimens taken from the Shan States are much larger than those I have seen in other parts of Burma and those from India.

arcturus arcturus. Rare in the Shan States.

mahadeva. Rare, does not appear to fly about 2,000 feet and is found at Nan-Pan-Det at the foot of the Kalaw Hills and at low altitudes round about Taungoo towards the Karen Hills.

castor castor. Rare. Also does not appear to fly above 2,000 feet. I have caught it at Lebin in the South Shan States. Males are filth eaters and can be found feeding on excreta of animals.

helenus helenus. Common all over the Shan States.

chaon chaon. Also very common especially at Maymyo.

noblei. I have heard that this is found in the Shan States but have not come across it. I understand it is more common in the North of Burma around Myitkyina.

polytes romulus. One of our commonest butterflies. I have not come across the 3rd form of female, the one like *hector*. The other two female forms are fairly common.

demoleus demoleus. Very common everywhere.

machaon verityi. Fairly plentiful in the Southern Shan States but rare in the North. It appears to fly at 5,000 feet and above. I have caught them at Kalaw and Taunggyi and I understand they are fairly common at a place called Pindaya.

xuthus. I have not heard of this being found in the Shan States but it may be found in the South towards the Chinese and Siamese borders.

PATHYSA

glycerion. I have only caught one male of this in the Shan States although it is fairly common on the plains of Upper Burma.

agetes agetes. Rare at altitudes of above 2,000. More common at the foot of the hills.

nomius swinhoi. Common at between two and three thousand feet. Males can be found by the hundreds taking moisture from the beds of streams. Females are fairly difficult to get.

aristeus hermocrates. Flies with the above and not distinguishable from *swinhoi* until one has it in the net. Fairly common.

antiphates pompilius. Common at low altitudes. Very rarely seen above 3,000 feet.

ZETIDES

cloanthus. Rare in the Shan States. Caught one in Kalaw some years ago but seen none since.

sarpedon sarpedon. Very common all over the country and most parts of the year.

doson axion. Fairly plentiful all over the country. Flies along with *s. sarpedon*.

eurypylus cheronus. Plentiful, especially during April and May in the hills.

bathycles chiron Common and flies with the former three varieties.

agammemnon agammemnon. Common but not so plentiful as the above four.

PARANTICOPSIS

macareus gyndes. Males are fairly common during April and May. Feed on moisture in stream beds and easily caught. Females appear to be rare.

xenocles kephisos. Not at all common. Fly during April and May and like *agestor* appear to feed on camphor trees. I generally collect about two pairs of this each year. Evidently single brooded.

megarus similis. I have caught males of this at 2,000 feet on the hills to Maymyo. No females caught as yet, but no doubt they could be found by getting into the jungle on the roadside where the males are found. Like others of this family the males are fond of moisture on roads and stream beds.

MEANDRUSA

gyas aribbas. A very rare butterfly. I secured a male in Kalaw at 4,500 feet during the summer of 1923. Commoner at 6,000 feet near Mogok.

payeni amphis. I have not seen this butterfly in the Shan States but believe it is to be found at Mogok 6,000 feet along with the above *gyas*.

TEINOPALPUS

imperialis imperatrix. There is one place only in Burma where this beautiful butterfly is to be found and that is at Thandaung, Karen Hills, adjoining the Southern Shan States. Evans says in his *Identification*, N. Burma to Ataran. The late Mr. Cooper said he saw a wing of one in the Ataran but I don't think this is sufficient proof to say they are to be found there. I have not heard of any of these butterflies being caught outside of Thandaung, on the hill there known as Thandaunggyi. The butterflies are very difficult to catch and fly very early in the morning between 7 and 10 o'clock. After that time they seem to disappear down in the valleys. Perhaps if one followed them down to the valleys they could be beaten up. Mr. Sparks of the Burma Railways informed me he has caught as many as half a dozen in one morning. I doubt if this number could be seen now apart from caught in one morning. They fly during April. I propose going up there next April to try my luck and if possible shall follow them down to the valleys when they disappear at about 10 a.m.

LEPTOCIRCUS

curlus. Common at low altitudes but I have not seen them at above 3,000 feet.

meges indistincta. Common and as above.

PIERIDÆ.

LEPTOSIA

nina nina. Not at all common in the Shan States. One sees an occasional one during April and May.

PIERIS

napi montana. Not too plentiful. I have not seen any in the Northern Shan States but have seen odd ones at Kalaw in the South.

canidia indica. Very common all over the country.

brassicæ, Common in Maymyo in the summer months. I noticed this is not listed as being found in Burma.

APORIA

agathon agathon. Rare. I have only seen this in the South Shan States.

TERIAS

libythea. Common.

laeta. Ditto.

blanda silhetana. Common but not so numerous as the above two.

hecabe hecabe. Very common.

COLIAS

None of this family in the Shan States; but I understand *croceus fieldii* is to be found in N. Burma. However, I have not come across it during my various tours in Upper Burma so I should think it either very local or rare.

IXIAS

✓ *pyrene latifasciata*. Common at below 3,000 feet but very seldom seen at above this altitude.

HEBOMOIA

glaucippe glaucippe. Common at low altitudes but rather scarce at 4,000 and above.

PARERONIA

avatar avatar. Not too plentiful in the Shan States.

valeria hippia. Fairly common in the South but not too common in the North. The variety *philomela* is very rare and I have not seen it in the Shan States but have caught it on the plains of Lower Burma.

DANAIDÆ.

HESTIA

✓ *lynceus hadeni*. While this is not found in the Shan States I would mention that it is fairly common in the Myaungmya District in Lower Burma. Bassein is given in the *Identification* by Evans but I think this is misleading. During my trips to Bassein especially for this butterfly I never came across a single one. On the other hand a friend living in the Myaungmya District sent me several good specimens and said it was plentiful there. I should think it flies only within a radius of 50 miles, and so is very local.

✓ *aglea melanoides*. Common all over the Shan States.

✓ *melaneus plateniston*. Fairly plentiful but not so common as the above.

tytia tytia. Quite a number can be caught during six months of the year. April to September.

✓ *limniace mutina*. Very common all over the country.

✓ *melissa septentrionis*. Common and flies with the above.

✓ *gautama gautama*. I have not come across this in the Shan States.

plexippus. Very common indeed.

chrysippus. Ditto.

EUPLOEA

mulciber mulciber. Very common.

alcathoe doubledayi. Rare in the Shan States. I have only caught one male during a long period of collecting.

alcathoe oesatia. Rare. One female only in my collection.

diocletiana diocletiana. Common at the foot of the hills but very seldom seen at above 2,000 feet.

✓ *klugii maclellandi*. Rare in the Shan States.

- Butt.*
klugi crassa. Rare in the Shan States.
Butt.
midamus splendens. Very seldom seen in the Shan States.
 ✓ **midamus brahma.** I have not come across this as yet not even in the Karens. It is probably very local.
 ✓ **godarte.** Very common all over the country and at all altitudes.
 ✓ **deione deione.** Rare in the Shan States proper but not so at the foot of the Karen Hills. *Field.*
harrisii hopei. Very seldom seen; but I understand it is to be found up towards Lashio in the North.

SATYRIDÆ.

This is a family that I have not been able to do much with. In my early days as a collector I was not interested in the common browns. When I did get an interest I found my cabinets were too full to allow room for *Mycalopsis*. However I have a few noted which I give below but which is nothing like a complete list of this butterfly found in the Shan States. At a later date I hope to be able to compile a more representative list.

MYCALESIS

- francisca.** *Cram.*
 ✓ **gotama charaka.**
perseus blasius. *Fabr.*
mineus mineus. *Linn.*
 ✓ **visala neovisala.**
 ✓ **suavolens.**
nicotia. *Hew.*
mamerta mamerta. *Cram.*

LETHE

- sidonis sidonis.** Not at all common in the Shan States. One male only in my collection. *Hew.*
sura. Not common in the Shan States but more plentiful in Northern Burma towards the Chinese frontier. *Hew.*
europa niladana. Quite common all over the country. *Fabr.*
rohria rohria. Common.
 ✓ **confusa gambara.** Very common indeed all over the country and at all altitudes.
 ✓ **verma stenopa.** Common in and around Maymyo. I have not noticed it in the South.
latiaris. *Hew.* Rare. One male only in my collection.
 ✓ **mekara zuchara.** Not common at high altitudes.
 ✓ **chandica flamma.** Rare. Only one male caught by me.
distans. Not too rare. A few specimens caught by me. The few specimens I have caught have been in my garden in Maymyo in the middle of Cantonments. *Butt.*
vindhya. *Butt.* Rare, only one male caught by me.
kansa. *Fabr.* Common, especially in the North.
sinorix. *Hew.* Rare. One female only in my collection.
 ✓ **pulaha pulahoides.** Rare. One male only secured by me.

bhadra. Very rare. I have only seen one of these in the Shan States and that was at Kalaw in company with Dr. Haynes when we both did a scramble for this prize which luckily fell to me.

muirheadi bhima. Rare and only at lower altitudes.

ORINOMA

damaris. It used to be fairly common at Kalaw in the South and I had not noticed it in the North before this year during September when I caught six males. I had been over the same ground every year and the same month for the last twelve years but never saw it before this year. I did not come across any females.

YPHIMA

hubneri hubneri. Common.

baldus baldus. Very common.

savara. Not common in the Shan States.

sakra austeni. Common at foot of Karen Hills.

ZIPOETIS

scylax. I have only found one male during my many years of collecting and I should call it rare in this part of Burma.

ORSOTRIOENA

medus medus. Very common indeed.

ERITES

I have not come across any of these although I notice they are listed as found in the Shan States.

NEORINA

westwoodi. One specimen, male, only from the foot of the Shan States near Mogok.

ANADEBIS

himachala. I found plenty of this at the bottom of the Goteik Bridge in the North. It was quite common there. Not seen elsewhere. Perhaps very local.

diademoides. One male caught only at the foot of the Karen Hills near Taungoo.

MELANITIS

leda ismene. Very common all over the Shan States. Very variable on the underside.

zitenius zitenius. Not rare in and around Maymyo. Flies with the above.

ELYMNIAS

hypermnæstra undularis. Common in the North.

nesoea timandra. One specimen only from Kalaw in the South.

AMATHUSIDÆ.

AEMONA

lena. Caught a few in Kalaw. Appeared to be very local.

lena haynei. Common near Maymyo and very variable. I don't find any difference in the sexes except that the female is much larger than the male. It is double brooded and flies during April and September.

FAUNIS

arcesilaus ^{Jabu.} Not found at high altitudes. Very common at foot of hills.

STICOPHALMA

✓ *louisa tytleri*. This large butterfly is also found at the foot of the hills. Rare in the Shan States.

✓ *louisa louisa*. Fairly common at the foot of the Karen Hills. I have not noticed it higher up in the Shan States proper.

THAUMANTIS

diore. ^{Fossil.} Rare in the Shan States. One male only sent me from Momeik State near Mogok.

THAURIA

✓ *lathyi amplifascia*. Fairly common in Maymyo but very local. Double brooded May and September. Unless one is on the spot when this emerges it is difficult to get perfect specimens. They fly so low and slow that they are the prey of birds and reptiles.

✓ *alis pseudaliris*. Common at the foot of the Karen Hills. Very rare in other parts.

AMATHUSIA

✓ *phidippus frederici*. Very rare and only found at the foot of the Karen Hills. One damaged male only in my collection.

AMATHUXIDIA

amythoon. ^{Small} I have found this also at the foot of the Karen Hills and in no other part of the Shan States. Very difficult to get perfect specimens no doubt owing to its great size.

ZEUXIDIA

✓ *amethystus masoni*. This is another butterfly of this large family that is found only at the foot of the Karen Hills. It would appear that Pathichaung where these butterflies are caught is the home of the *Amathusiidae*.

DISCOPHORA

tullia zal. Very common all over the Shan States. The variety *spiloptera* is very rare and I have not been fortunate in getting this. The other variety *indica* is not so rare.

✓ *continentalis continentalis*. Nothing near so common as the above. Only one male in my collection.

ENISPE

euthymius. ^{Small} Rare in the Shan States but common at the foot of the hills. A number of these were sent me from the Upper Chindwin District and are apparently very common there.

(To be continued).